

REMARKS

Claims 22, 28, 29, 35 and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Andrews '201, and claim 37 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews '201. While Applicant does not concede that this rejection is proper, Applicants have amended claims 22 and 29 to recite that the housing which defines the recess carries a guard member. Support for this amendment is found, for example, in Fig. 2 and at page 4 (first paragraph of Detailed Description) in Applicant's original specification.

Andrews '201 clearly does not teach this feature. Instead, in Andrews the guard member is mounted on the "subassembly" that is inserted into the recess (see for example, guard members 328 and 330 in Fig. 10).

Applicant has also added new claims 38 and 40, which require that the subassembly consist of the first and second blocks and the blades. This requirement is not met by the Andrews razor, in which the subassembly includes the guards, the cap members and a lubricant strip (see, e.g., Fig. 10 and col. 15, lines 30-52.)

Minor amendments have been made to claims 22 and 29 to improve their syntax, i.e., "edges" has been changed to "edge" in claim 22 and the clause beginning "a plurality of" in claim 29 has been reworded, and the word "collectively" has been added. These amendments have been made simply for clarity and not to distinguish the prior art.

Applicant respectfully requests that the claims be allowed in view of the above amendments. It is also requested that these amendments be entered after final, as they are believed to put the claims in condition for immediate allowance or, alternatively, in better condition for appeal.

If the Examiner does not deem these amendments to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned in order to advance prosecution.

Please apply the fee for excess claim fees, as well as any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 00216-674001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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